

Note

See page 3 of CONSUMER NEWS for convenient coupon designed for your reply to one of these proposals in CONSUMER REGISTER.

Register results

The following regulations, standards or statements of findings have been issued by Federal agencies. They have all previously been summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER as proposals or interim standards. The extent of consumer comment on each item is reported when such information is available.

- On June 6 National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a statement of findings on naming & marketing of fish. In response to NOAA's proposal, the agency received 525 comments, of which 471 came from individual consumers (housewives, students & fishermen). Most comments favored the proposal for improving the names of fish—for making the names more palatable to consumers—& nobody opposed the proposal. Many suggestions were received, but not enough information was made available on how to approach the problem. Therefore, NOAA is:
 1. Requesting proposals from expert sources as to the most appropriate & systematic way of approaching the overall problem.
 2. Selecting a contractor to develop plans for identifying the fish & constructing & evaluating a model system.
 3. Consulting with appropriate interest groups both in & out of government to implement the plans. Details—*Federal Register*: June 13, page 20711; Jan. 17, page 2219; Dec. 17, 1973, page 34682. Consumer Register: Jan. 15 & Feb. 1.
- On Aug. 1, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) set new radiation protection standards for diagnostic x-ray machines. This regulation was summarized in CONSUMER REGISTER on Sept. 15, 1972 & was scheduled to become effective Aug. 15, 1973. However, FDA extended the effective date because it received petitions from x-ray manufacturers & others. All equipment manufactured after July 31 must meet the new performance standard. Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 15, 1973, page 28633; Aug. 15, 1972, page 16461. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 15, 1972.
- On Aug. 23 Interior Dept. will amend its regulations on the use of off-road vehicles on Bureau of Reclamation lands. This implements the President's Executive Order 11644 & is designed to ensure that any permitted use of off-road vehicles will not significantly damage the environment. Details—*Federal Register*: July 24, page 26893; Feb. 14, 1973, page 4421; Feb. 9, 1972, page 2877. Consumer Register: March 1, 1973; March 15, 1972. Consumer News: Feb. 1, 1972.

Instant glue

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) says that for the time being instant glue (a cyanoacrylate-based adhesive) may be sold to consumers, but it must be labeled with a warning that the glue is an eye irritant.

CPSC has been concerned about instant glue since last September when Consumers Union asked the agency to check its safety. In January, CPSC recalled several brands of the glue because their labels did not carry proper warnings about eye irritation.

CPSC was also worried about the glue's fast bonding action—it is capable of gluing skin to skin.

In February, CPSC held a hearing to obtain information. As a result of the hearing (& other data) the commission concluded that the glue does not pose an unreasonable risk to consumers. If someone does cement his fingers together with a brand of instant glue, he should peel them apart rather than pulling them apart.

Details—*Federal Register*: May 9, page 16511; Jan. 24, page 2796. CONSUMER NEWS: Jan. 15. CONSUMER REGISTER: Feb. 1.

Bumpers

Aug. 20 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to permit softer surface materials for car bumpers. NHTSA

says these materials would allow flexibility in bumper design at the same time they protect the front & rear ends of cars from damage in low-speed crashes.

NHTSA's original proposal of Aug. 3, 1973 required that bumpers not be damaged at all during barrier crash & pendulum tests, but the agency now feels that some minor surface damage should be allowed.

NHTSA proposes that the bumper standard apply to cars manufactured on or after Sept. 1, 1975. Details—*Federal Register*: July 9, page 25237; Aug. 3, 1973, page 20899. (CONSUMER NEWS: Special Report: Nov. 15, 1972). Send comments to Docket Section, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th St., SW, Washington, DC 20590.

Power mowers

Aug. 21 is deadline for Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) request for assistance in writing a mandatory safety standard for power lawn mowers. The invitation to aid in the development of this standard is open to organized groups as well as individual consumers who may wish to form a group for this purpose. (Under certain circumstances CPSC will contribute to the cost of preparing the standards.)

CPSC says an effective standard for power lawn mowers is necessary because an estimated 60,500 power mower-related injuries requiring hospital emergency room care

took place from June 1972 through June 1973. Typical injuries: operator contact with mower blade, objects being thrown by blades, fires from gas spillage, electric shocks, deafness caused by noise.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 22, page 26662. *CONSUMER NEWS*: June 1. Send inquiries & submit proposed standards to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, DC 20207. Interested organizations may call CPSC (202-634-7700) for more specific information on submitting proposals for the standard.

Cosmetic complaints

Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has announced the availability of forms cosmetic manufacturers, packers & distributors may use to voluntarily file cosmetic complaints they have received from consumers. The first report will cover the 6-month period from Jan. 1, 1974, through June 30, 1974, & should be in FDA's hands no later than Sept. 1.

The forms, identified below, are not designed for use by consumers, but FDA says consumers should feel free to send their own cosmetic experiences directly to the agency (Send requests for forms to Industry Guidance Branch, Bureau of Foods, Food & Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW, Washington, DC 20204). Consumers may use the above address to report their own experiences.

The forms are FD-2704, *Cosmetic Product Experience Report*; FD-2705, *Cosmetic Product Unusual Experience Report* & FD-2706, *Summary Report of Cosmetic Product Experience by Product Categories*.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 3, page 24526; March 8, page 9185; Oct. 17, 1973, page 28914. *CONSUMER REGISTER*: May 1; Nov. 1, 1973.

Tire quality

Sept. 12 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to revise its Uniform Tire Quality Grading System to help consumers make informed choices when they buy passenger tires.

The regulation would require that car tires be graded for treadwear, traction & high speed performance. The following are main provisions for grading:

- Treadwear grades would be in the form of numbers & would represent the tire's projected mileage. The tire would be tested on a 6,400 mile test course & represent typical highway conditions—NHTSA would set up the course. Both the tire industry & NHTSA would test tires on the course—the tire companies to establish grades & NHTSA to test the validity of the grades. Tests would cover radial, bias & bias-belted tires.

- Traction grades would be in the form of 5-pointed stars & would be based on tire's stopping ability when tested on wet concrete & wet asphalt.

- High speed grades would be in the form of letters (A, B or C) & would represent tire's heat resistance & cooling ability.

Details—*Federal Register*: June 14, page 20808; Sept. 21, 1971, page 18751. *CONSUMER NEWS*: Oct. 15, 1971. Send comments to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 400 7th St. SW, Washington, DC 20590.

Food labeling (continued)

Oct. 1 is new deadline for comments on 5 of Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) 14 proposals to revise food labeling regulations.

The Association of Food & Drug Officials of the U.S. asked for more time to comment on the following proposals:

- To exempt containers in a multiunit retail food package from label requirements as long as the outside retail package is properly labeled & the individual containers are not sold separately. (For example, each 1/4-lb. package of oleomargarine enclosed within a retail package would not have to be labeled.)
- To establish a uniform method of listing percentages of ingredients when percentage ingredient labeling is used.
- To require a uniform procedure for listing food ingredients.
- To define nutritional qualities that must be present in vegetable proteins (such as soy beans) that replace traditional protein sources (such as meat).
- To establish guidelines for adding nutrients to foods.

The original deadline of Aug. 13 was not extended for the remaining 9 proposals—all 14 proposals were described in greater detail in *Consumer Register*: Aug. 1.

Details—*Federal Register*: July 23, page 26747; June 14, page 20885. *CONSUMER REGISTER*: Aug. 1.

Fireworks

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has announced a public hearing & prehearing conference on the banning & labeling of fireworks. Sept. 5 is deadline for consumers & others to submit evidence—pro & con about fireworks—that will be presented at the prehearing conference beginning 10 a.m. Sept. 10, 6th Floor Hearing Room, 1750 K St., NW, Washington, DC. A public hearing is scheduled beginning Sept. 24 at the same address.

CPSC had announced a ban on firecrackers & other kinds of fireworks as of June 17, but several fireworks manufacturers objected to the regulations & filed a petition before the effective date. The above notices of hearing & prehearing conference are results of the petition. The fireworks ban did not go into effect, of course, on June 17. Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 1, page 27828; July 11, page 25473; May 16, page 17435. *CONSUMER REGISTER*: June 15 & July 1. Send 5 copies of evidence to Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 1750 K St. NW, Washington, DC 20207, & send 1 copy to Hon. Paul N. Pfeiffer, Chief Administrative Law Judge of the Maritime Administration, Room 6708, 14th & E St. NW., Washington, DC 20230.

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